

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system comprising:

a central management agent; and

a field replaceable unit type specific management bus coupled to the
central management agent.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises a plurality of field
replaceable units of a first type which are coupled to the central management
agent by said field replaceable unit type specific management bus.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the system further comprises:

a second field replaceable unit type specific management bus; and

a second plurality of field replaceable units of a second type which are
coupled to the central management agent by said second field replaceable unit
type specific management bus.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein said field replaceable unit type specific
management buses are Inter-IC buses.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises a second central
management agent coupled to one of the field replaceable unit type specific
management buses.

6. A system comprising:
a central management agent;
a plurality of field replaceable units of a first type;
a first management bus coupling the central management agent to only the first type of field replaceable unit;
a plurality of field replaceable units of a second type; and
a second management bus coupling the central management agent to only the second type of field replaceable unit.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the central management agent is a processor.

8. The system of claim 6, wherein the plurality of field replaceable units of a first type are temperature sensors and the plurality of field replaceable units of a second type are power supplies.

9. The system of claim 6, further comprising:
a plurality of a third type of field replaceable unit; and
a third management bus coupling the central management agent to only the third type of field replaceable unit.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of field replaceable units of a third type are fan trays.

11. The system of claim 6, further comprising a second central management agent coupled to the first field replaceable unit type specific management bus and coupled to the second field replaceable unit type specific management bus.

1 12. A central management agent comprising:
2 a system management circuit;
3 a first management bus interface coupled to the system management
4 circuit to communicate management information with only a first type of field
5 replaceable unit; and
6 a second management bus interface coupled to the system management
7 circuit to communicate management information with only a second type of field
8 replaceable unit.

1 13. The central management agent of claim 12, wherein the system management
2 circuit contains logic to determine that there has been a likely failure in a field
3 replaceable unit of the first type based upon a determination that said first
4 management bus is inoperable.

1 14. The central management agent of claim 13, wherein the central management agent
2 further comprises an interface coupled to the system management circuit to
3 communicate with a remote location.

1 15. The central management agent of claim 14, wherein the central management agent
2 further comprises a third interface coupled to the processor to communicate
3 management information to only a third type of field replaceable unit.

1 16. A system comprising:

2 a chassis;

3 a first plurality of interchangeable components located within said chassis;

4 a second plurality of interchangeable components located within said
5 chassis;

6 a central management agent located within said chassis;

7 a first management bus coupled to the central management agent and
8 coupled to each of the first plurality of interchangeable components, wherein the
9 first management bus is not coupled to any other components; and

10 a second management bus coupled to the central management agent and
11 coupled to each of the second plurality of interchangeable components, wherein
12 the second management bus is not coupled to any other components.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the system further comprises a central processing
2 unit coupled to the central management agent.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the first plurality of interchangeable components
2 are power supplies.

1 19. The system of claim 18, wherein the second plurality of interchangeable
2 components are fan trays.

1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the central management agent is coupled to an
2 external communication link.

1 21. The system of claim 17, wherein the system further comprises a second central
2 management agent coupled to the first management bus, to the second
3 management bus, and to the central management agent.

1 22. The system of claim 16, wherein the system further comprises a redundant first
2 management bus coupled to the central management agent and coupled to each of
3 the first plurality of interchangeable components, wherein the first management
4 bus is not coupled to any other components.

1 23. A method of detecting a component failure in a computer system, the method
2 comprising:
3 detecting a failure indication at a central management agent for a first of a
4 plurality of management buses; and
5 determining that a type of field replaceable units has likely failed based on
6 the identity of said first management bus.

1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein said failure indication is the absence of an
2 expected signal from said first management bus.

1 25. The method of claim 23, wherein the method further comprises sending a signal
2 from said central management agent to a remote location that indicates the type of
3 field replaceable unit that has likely failed.

1 26. The method of claim 23, wherein the method further comprises:

2 detecting a failure indication at the central management agent from a
3 second one of said plurality of management buses in the computer system; and
4 determining that a second type of field replaceable unit has likely failed
5 based on the identify of said second management bus.

1 27. A system comprising:

2 a central management agent;
3 a first set of components of a first type, wherein each of the components in
4 said first set is interchangeable with the other components in said first set;
5 a first management bus that is coupled to the central management agent
6 and to the first set of components and that is dedicated to the first set of
7 components;
8 a second set of components of a second type, wherein each of the
9 components in said second set is interchangeable with the other components in
10 said second set but is not interchangeable with the components in said first set;
11 and
12 a second management bus that is coupled to the central management agent
13 and to the second set of components and that is dedicated to the second set of
14 components.

1 28. The system of claim 27, wherein the central management agent is adapted to
2 manage the hardware in a subsystem in a computer system.

1 29. The system of claim 27, wherein the central management agent is an abstracting
2 agent.

1 30. The system of claim 27, further comprising a third management bus that is
2 coupled to the central management agent and to the first set of components and
3 that is dedicated to the first set of components.